# Raytheon, United Technologies to Merge

A F-35B Lightning II during the Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort Air Show in April. UTC Technologies Corp., now merged with Raytheon Co., is the manufacturer of the engine used in the F-35. U.S. Marine Corps/Warrant Officer Bobby J. Yarbrough

ARLINGTON, Va. – The merger of the Raytheon Co. and United Technologies Corp. (UTC), announced June 9, will result in a defense company with a broad portfolio in weapons, sensors, mission systems, avionics and propulsion.

In a joint announcement, Raytheon and UTC said they entered into an agreement to merge, naming the merged company Raytheon Technologies Corp.

"The transaction will create a premier systems provider with advanced technologies to address rapidly growing segments within aerospace and defense," the announcement said. "The merger of Raytheon, a leading defense company, and United Technologies, a leading aerospace company, comprised of Collins Aerospace and Pratt & Whitney, will offer a complementary portfolio of platform-agnostic aerospace and defense technologies."

> *Raytheon and @UTC aerospace businesses will combine in a merger of equals. The new Raytheon Technologies will be a premier systems provider with an innovative tech portfolio that addresses the rapidly growing segments of A&D: https://t.co/oxbAwaVOl1 pic.twitter.com/TJloaoeNbP*

— RTX (@RTX_News) June 9, 2019

Raytheon is known for missiles and other aerial weapons, radars, undersea weapons, command-and-control systems and mission systems among other systems. UTC is the manufacturer of the F135 engine used on the F-35. Collins is known for cockpit avionics and other aircraft systems.

"Areas of joint advancement include, but are not limited to: hypersonics and future missile systems; directed energy weapons; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) in contested environments; cyber protection for connected aircraft; next generation connected airspace; and advanced analytics and artificial intelligence for commercial aviation," the companies' announcement said.

> *"The merger of Raytheon … and United Technologies … will offer a complementary portfolio of platform-agnostic aerospace and defense technologies."*
>
> *Raytheon-UTC Merger announcement*

Raytheon's four business sectors will be consolidated into two sectors, Intelligence, Space and Airborne Systems and Integrated Defense and Missile Systems. The UTC sectors Collins Aerospace and Pratt & Whitney will form the third and fourth sectors of Raytheon Technologies.

Tom Kennedy, the current chairman and chief executive officer of Raytheon, will be appointed executive chairman of

Raytheon Technologies and Greg Hayes will be named CEO. Two years following the close of the transaction, Hayes will assume the role of chairman and CEO. The company will remain headquartered in the Boston area.

UTC's Carrier and Otis sectors are expected to be spun off into separate companies in 2020.

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# Navy Awards $1.8 Billion Contract for F-35 Block 4 Capabilities

Three F-35C Lightning II complete a flight over Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, in February. The U.S. Navy awarded Lockheed a contract for Block 4 upgrades to the Joint Strike Fighter. U.S. Navy/Chief Mass Communication Specialist Shannon E. Renfroe

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Navy has awarded to Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Co. a contract to continue development of Block 4 capabilities for the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter.

Naval Air Systems Command awarded a $1.8 billion "cost-plus-incentive-fee, cost-plus-award-fee, cost-plus-fixed-fee contract for continued design maturation and development of Block 4 capabilities in support

of the F-35
Lightning II Phase 2.3 Pre-Modernization for the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps
and non-U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) participants," according to a Defense
Department announcement.

Details of the Block 4 capabilities have not been released by the
F-35 Joint Program Office, but they are mainly incremental software and sensor
upgrades intended to add to the aircraft's agility, lethality and situational
awareness to enable the aircraft to keep ahead of the threats anticipated in
the future.

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# Marine Corps Orders 30 G/ATORs from Northrop Grumman

The Marine Corps has contracted for 30 G/ATORs plus parts and retrofit kits. Northrop Grumman Systems Corp.

ARLINGTON, Va. – The U.S. Marine Corps has awarded a
contract to Northrop Grumman Systems Corp. in Baltimore for full-rate
production of the TPS-80 Ground/Air Task Oriented Radar (G/ATOR).

According to a June 7 Department of Defense release, the
Marine Corps Systems Command awarded to Northrop Grumman a $958 million contract
for the purchase of 30 full-rate production G/ATORs plus spare

parts and
retrofit kits.

The Marine Corps plans to procure a total of 45 G/ATOR units.

The TPS-80 is a three-dimensional, expeditionary, short/medium-range, multirole radar capable of detecting low-observable, low-radar-cross-section targets such as rockets, artillery, mortars, cruise missiles and unmanned aerial systems.

G/ATOR is being developed and fielded in three blocks and will be used by Marine Air-Ground Task Force across a range of its capabilities. The capability blocks will cover air combat element and ground combat element missions, replacing three in-service legacy radars and the functionality of two systems already retired.

The Program Executive Officer Land Systems in Quantico, Virginia, is the portfolio manager of the G/ATOR program.

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# SECNAV Names Future Destroyer in Honor of U.S. Coast Guard, World War II Navy Cross

# Recipient

A graphic illustration of the future Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS Quentin Walsh (DDG 132). U.S. Navy photo illustration by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Paul L. Archer.

CHERBOURG, France – Navy Secretary Richard V. Spencer named a future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, DDG 132, in honor of Coast Guard Capt. Quentin Walsh, who was awarded the Navy Cross for his service during World War II, the secretary's public affairs office announced in a June 6 release.

"Capt. Walsh was a hero whose efforts during World War II continue to inspire, and his leadership in securing the French port of Cherbourg had a profound effect on the success of the amphibious operations associated with Operation Overlord," Spencer said.

"For over two centuries, the Navy and Marine Corps team and the Coast Guard have sailed side by side, in peacetime and war, fair weather or foul. I am honored the future USS Quentin Walsh will carry Capt. Walsh's legacy of strength and service throughout the world, and I am proud that for decades to come, this ship will remind friends and adversaries alike of the proud history of our services and the skill and professionalism of all those who stand the watch today."

Spencer made the announcement alongside Adm. Karl Schultz, the commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, in a ceremony aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Eagle in Cherbourg, France.

"We are grateful to the U.S. Navy and Sec. Spencer for honoring one of our Coast Guard heroes, Capt. Quentin Walsh," Schultz said. "Naming a future Navy destroyer after Capt. Walsh, the first Arleigh Burke-class ship to be named after a Coast Guard legend, highlights not only his courageous actions but the bravery of all U.S. service members involved in the D-Day Invasion of Normandy.

"The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard legacies are interwoven as reflected in the heroic actions of Capt. Walsh and the Navy Sailors under his command during the liberation of Cherbourg," the commandant continued. "We will remain always ready to stand with our brothers and sisters in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps."

During World War II, while serving on the staff of the commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe, then Cmdr. Walsh was given command of a 53-man special task force assigned to capture the vital port of Cherbourg. Despite heavy casualties, his

small force seized the port facilities and took control of the harbor the day
after they entered the city.

After he
discovered that the remaining German garrison at Fort du Homet held 52 U.S.
Army paratroopers as prisoners, Walsh, under a flag of truce, exaggerated the
strength of the forces under his command and persuaded the commanding officer
of the remnants of the German garrison to surrender. These actions earned him
the Navy Cross and, all told, he accepted the surrender of over 700 German
soldiers. Walsh died May 18, 2000.

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# Navy Reduces Planned F/A-18C+ Hornet Conversions

F/A-18C form up after an aerial refueling over San Diego in February. U.S. Marine Corps/Cpl. Joshua S. McAlpine

ARLINGTON,
Va. — The U.S. Navy has reduced the number of F/A-18C Hornet strike fighters it
is modernizing to the F/A-18C+ configuration from 25 to 19, only enough to field
one squadron for the U.S. Marine Corps, according to Michael Land, a spokesman
for the Naval Air Systems Command.

As an upgrade

to the F/A-18C, the F/A-18C+ is equipped with an upgraded APG-73 radar, Link 16, color cockpit displays, a moving-map display, ALE-47 infrared countermeasures, the Naval Aircrew Common Ejection Seat and the Joint Helmet-Mounted Cueing System. The service life of the airframes is being extended from 6,000 flight hours to 8,000 hours.

Originally the C+ program was to include 30 aircraft, enough to field two squadrons. The number later was reduced to 25.

The aircraft are being upgraded by Boeing at its facility at Cecil Field in Jacksonville, Florida.

As of early May, three of the C+ versions had been completed. Two had been delivered to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 115 (VMFA-115), one of which had been lost in a mishap. The third has been delivered to reserve squadron VMFA-112 at Naval Air Station Fort Worth in Texas in May. That squadron is scheduled to receive most of the C+ Hornets.

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# Navy Orders 34 ScanEagle UAVs for Partner Nations

A ScanEagle prepares for launch in Helmand, Afghanistan. The U.S. Navy has awarded a contract for 34 ScanEagles for four

partner nations adjacent to the South China Sea. Lt. Charity Edgar

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy has awarded a contract for 34 ScanEagle unmanned aerial vehicles for four partner nations adjacent to the South China Sea.

The Naval Air Systems Command awarded a $47.9 million contract on May 31 to Boeing's Insitu in Bingen, Washington, for the UAVs as well as "spare payloads, spare and repair parts, support equipment, tools, training, technical services and field service representatives," according to a Defense Department announcement.

The UAVs will be built for the governments of Malaysia (12 UAVs), Indonesia (8), the Philippines (8) and Vietnam (6).

The ScanEagle is a small Group 2 UAV that can be launched from a pneumatic rail launcher ashore or from ship and recovered by a line that intercepts a hook on the wing of the UAV. It can carry sensor payloads such as electro-optical imaging, infrared imaging and millimeter wave radar. The UAV can stay aloft for 18 hours.

Deliveries are expected to be completed by March 2022.

# Navy Orders Reaper ISR Services for Marine Corps

A U.S. Air Force MQ-9 Reaper sits on the flight line at Hurlburt Field, Florida. Naval Air Systems Command awarded General Atomics a $36.5 million contract modification to provide ISR services with the Reaper. U.S. Air Force/Staff Sgt. John Bainter

ARLINGTON, Va. — The U.S. Navy has awarded a contract to General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. (GA-ASI) to provide intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) services though use of Group 5 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

According to a May 30 Defense Department contract announcement, Naval Air Systems Command awarded GA-ASI a $36.5 million contract modification to provide ISR services with contractor-owned/contractor-operated MQ-9 Reaper UAVs, the same UAV used by the U.S. Air Force.

The Marine Corps extensively has used contractor ISR services in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria, with the smaller Insitu ScanEagle, and has employed its new service-owned Boeing Insitu RQ-21A Blackjack UAV in the same roles. The use of the larger Reaper is filling a gap in ISR coverage for the Marine Corps.

The Corps has developed a requirement for its own Reapers and has requested two in the fiscal 2020 defense budget.

The current contract modification is for nine months of Reaper services, scheduled to run through February 2020 at overseas locations and at Yuma, Arizona.

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# U.S. 2nd Fleet Declares Initial Operational Capability

NORFOLK, Va. – The U.S. 2nd Fleet declared the command has achieved initial operational capability (IOC) May 29, less than one year after being established by senior military leaders, U.S. 2nd Fleet Public Affairs said in a May 29 release.

Vice Adm. Andrew “Woody” Lewis, commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet, made the announcement onboard Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia, the waterfront homeport of many 2nd Fleet maritime assets.

“The North Atlantic has some of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, and with the opening of waterways in the Arctic, this traffic will only grow,” Lewis said. “This is a fact acknowledged by both our allies and competitors, and as such, it is critically important U.S. 2nd Fleet reinvigorates the way our

forces are employed in this influential theater.”

In achieving IOC, the command has reached the capability to command and control forces assigned, as is expected of a numbered fleet, utilizing the functions and processes of the Maritime Operations Center and Maritime Headquarters.

> *“The North Atlantic has some of the world’s busiest shipping lanes, and with the opening of waterways in the Arctic, this traffic will only grow,” Lewis said. “This is a fact acknowledged by both our allies and competitors, and as such, it is critically important U.S. 2nd Fleet reinvigorates the way our forces are employed in this influential theater.”*
>
> *Vice Adm. Andrew “Woody” Lewis*

By focusing on the high-end training and employment of assigned assets, the new 2nd Fleet will be postured to support the employment of forces, whether that is on the Western side of the Atlantic, the Eastern side of the Atlantic, or up into the Arctic.

A few days after achieving IOC, the new fleet will lead Exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS), marking the first time the fleet will operate in the European theater, and leveraging increased lethality, interoperability and integrated warfighting capability with allies and partners in the region.

“BALTOPS 2019 is our collective opportunity to promote peace and security through cooperation, collaboration, interoperability, and an unambiguous display of strength in the Baltic region,” Lewis said. “As an alliance, increasing our capabilities across all-domains as well as building a command-wide network will give us the ability to deter aggression and project stability.”

U.S. 2nd Fleet exercises operational and administrative authorities over assigned ships, aircraft and landing forces on the East Coast and the North Atlantic. Additionally, it plans and conducts maritime, joint and combined operations as well as trains and recommends certification of combat ready naval forces for maritime employment and operations around the globe.

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# Navy Advances $65 Million for Materials for 3 MQ-4C Triton UAVs

The contract through Naval Air Systems Command will see Northrop Grumman build two MC-4C Tritons for the U.S. Navy and one for the Royal Australian Air Force. NORTHROP GRUMMAN ARLINGTON, Va. – The Navy has allocated

funds for long-lead components for the next production lot of the MQ-4C Triton high-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicles, including one for Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), according to a May 30 Defense Department contract announcement.

The Naval Air Systems Command has awarded to Northrop Grumman Systems Corp. a not-to-exceed $65 million advance acquisition contract toward the Lot 5 low-rate initial production of three Tritons, two for the U.S. Navy and one for the RAAF. The contract also provides for three ground stations, two for the U.S. Navy and one for the RAAF.

As of last month, Northrop Grumman had delivered three production MQ-4Cs to the U.S. Navy.

The Australian government has identified a requirement for seven Tritons for the maritime surveillance role. Two have been ordered to date.

The U.S. Navy's Unmanned Patrol Squadron 19, the first Triton squadron, is on track to deploy the Triton for an Early Operational Capability deployment to Guam later this year. It will take two MQ-4Cs to Andersen Air Force Base in Guam to support the U.S. 7th Fleet.

Rear Adm. Brian Corey, program executive officer for Unmanned Aviation and Strike Weapons, speaking May 6 at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space expo in National Harbor, Maryland, said

the two Tritons
making the first deployment will be in the aircraft's baseline configuration.

The baseline configuration, Integrated
Functional Capability 3 (IFC 3) includes the Northrop Grumman AN/ZPY-3
Multi-Function Active Sensor (MFAS) maritime radar, Raytheon MTS-B electro-optical/infrared
sensor turret, Automatic Identification System receiver and an electronic
support measures system.

Corey said the current priority of the
Triton program is to "put forward the IFC 4 [Integrated Functional Capability
4] capability [in the Triton] to do much of the EP-3E mission."

The MQ-4C is scheduled to replace the EP-3E
electronic reconnaissance aircraft when the UAV's IFC 4 multi-intelligence
capability is installed and certified for operations.

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# Navy Deactivates First F-35C Replacement Squadron, Merges With Second

Three F-35C Lightning II aircraft complete a flight over Eglin Air Force Base on Feb. 1. Ceremonies and a flyaway May 23 at Eglin marked the deactivation of the U.S. Navy's first fleet

replacement squadron and its merging with the second FRS. (U.S. Navy/Chief Mass Communication Specialist Shannon E. Renfroe

ARLINGTON, Va. – Ceremonies and a flyaway May 23 at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, marked the deactivation of the Navy's first F-35C fleet replacement squadron and its consolidation with the second F-35C FRS as the service moves to conduct all F-35C flight training at one base.

Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 101, the "Grim Reapers," officially will be deactivated on July 1, but the deactivation ceremonies were held May 23. The squadron flew out its last F-35Cs on that date to Naval Air Station Lemoore, California, the home of VFA-125, the FRS that is training future F-35C pilots and conducting transition training of VFA squadrons to the F-35C.

Reactivated in 2012 at Eglin AFB, VFA-101 has been training instructor and test pilots to fly the F-35C Lightning II strike fighter. The Navy decided to reactivate VFA-125 at NAS Lemoore to become an F-35C FRS.

VF-125 conducted the transition of the first fleet F-35C squadron, VFA-147, which took the F-35C to Initial Operational Capability in February. VFA-147 is scheduled to deploy on board USS Carl Vinson in 2021.

Although it is not of the lineage of World War II's Fighter Squadron 10 (VF-10), VFA-101 adopted the Grim Reaper traditions of the famous squadron. VF-10 flew the F4F Wildcat and later F6F-3 Hellcat off USS Enterprise

(CV-6) in the Pacific during WWII. The squadron later deployed twice into
combat on board USS Intrepid (CV-11) in 1945, first with F4U-1D and later F4U-4
Corsair fighters. VF-10 was deactivated in 1945.

https://youtu.be/5NLS4VHtfcY
VF-101 was activated in 1952 at NAS Cecil Field, Florida, and took
on the nickname and traditions of VF-10 “Grim Reapers.” VF-101 flew F4U-4 Corsairs
in the Korean War and went on to operate the F2H Banshee, F4D Skyray, F3H
Demon, F-4 Phantom II and the F-14 Tomcat. VF-101 was deactivated in September
2005.

The squadron was reactivated in May 2012 as the F-35C FRS.
According to a May 23 release from the Joint Strike Fighter Wing, VFA-101 trained
more than 75 Navy and Marine Corps F-35C pilots, accepted more than 30
aircraft, trained more than 1,200 F-35C maintainers and flew nearly 11,000
flight hours.

“The contributions that VFA-101 has made to the F-35C community
will not diminish as this program grows,” VFA-101’s commanding officer, Cmdr.
Adan Covarrubias, said in the release. “The original cadre of maintainers and
pilots have left a legacy that is evidenced in all aspects of this community. Their
influence will continue long after the squadron’s doors are closed.”